

# HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY AND STEM CELL THERAPY

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## SUMMARIES

### CANCER CHEMOTHERAPY

#### **Improved compliance with adjuvant vinorelbine and cisplatin in non-small cell lung cancer**

Aljubran and colleagues retrospectively evaluated compliance and toxicity of platinum-based chemotherapy in 50 patients in the 2 years following reports of successful adjuvant chemotherapy for NSCLC. Eighty percent completed treatment, but 40% required a dose reduction and 58% required a delay in treatment. Six events of febrile neutropenia were reported in 5 patients and admission for toxicity was required in 5 other patients. There were no toxic deaths. The authors conclude that adjuvant-based chemotherapy for resected NSCLC is accepted by physicians and patients with a high degree of compliance.

### STEM CELL THERAPY

#### **A retrospective comparison of allogeneic peripheral blood stem cell versus bone marrow transplantation**

Bittencourt and colleagues compared outcomes in 364 patients who received either allogeneic bone marrow (n=142) or peripheral blood stem cell (n=222) transplantation. Chronic myeloid leukemia was the diagnosis in 41% of patients. Patients who received a peripheral blood stem cell transplantation had faster neutrophil and platelet engraftment, but increased rates of acute graft-versus-host disease, transplant-related mortality, relapse or survival rates. There was no clear benefit in relapse rate and no evidence that transplantation with peripheral stem cells benefits patient survival in their institution.

### SURVIVAL AND OUTCOMES

#### **Clinical characteristics and outcome of pediatric patients with stage IV Hodgkin lymphoma**

Belgaumi and colleagues studied outcomes from 1975 to 2003 in 67 patients younger than 14 years of age with stage IV Hodgkin lymphoma treated from 1975 to 2003 at a single institution. Fifty-four patients (80.6%) achieved complete remission, 2 (3%) a partial remission, 10 (14.9%) had progressive disease, and 1 was lost to follow-up. Overall survival was 79.4% and event-free survival was 63.9% at 5 years. Failure to achieve a complete remission with chemotherapy was the only factor associated with a poorer outcome in a multivariate analysis. Slow responders who fail to achieve complete remission may require novel and/or aggressive therapy.

### CANCER BIOCHEMISTRY

#### **Studies on biomarkers for oxidative stress in patients with chronic myeloid leukemia**

Singh and colleagues compared plasma levels of products of protein oxidation and lipid peroxidation between patients with chronic (n=20) and accelerated phase CML (n=20). They found statistically significant differences in plasma levels of protein carbonyl, thiobarbituric acid reactive substances, and total lipid hydroperoxide, and concluded that they might serve as biomarkers for oxidative stress in CML patients. Further studies are needed to establish their precise role.

### GYNECOLOGIC ONCOLOGY

#### **Polymorphic (CAG)<sub>n</sub> repeats in the androgen receptor gene: a marker for endometriosis and uterine leiomyomas**

Shaik and colleagues compared the frequency of (CAG)<sub>n</sub> repeats in the androgen receptor gene in 90 women with endometriosis, 140 with leiomyomas and 101 health age- and sex-matched controls, all women of Asian Indian ethnic population. In patients with endometriosis, 19 CAG repeats were more frequent than in controls, and in patient with leiomyomas, 20 CAG repeats were more frequent than in controls. The authors propose that these repeats of the androgen receptor gene are markers of high risk for these benign pathologies of the uterus, but that further studies are needed in different ethnic groups to understand the role of androgen receptor gene polymorphism in the development of endometriosis and leiomyomas.